

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 035079
ORIGIN AF-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SIG-01 MMO-01 /007 R

66011
DRAFTED BY AF/I:SMERCURIO:PCS
APPROVED BY AF/I:SMERCURIO
-----170317Z 069572 /70

R 161535Z FEB 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO OAU COLLECTIVE
XMT AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 035079

FOL RPT ADDIS ABABA 0872 ACTION SECSTATE INFO CAPETOWN
LONDON MADRID MOSCOW PARIS PRETORIA 11 FEB 77 QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 0872

DEPARTMENT PASS OAU COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, OAU, FT, SS, WA, RH, XA, FR, SP, SA
SUBJ: OAU SECGEN HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

SUMMARY: IN FEBRUARY 10 PRESS CONFERENCE AS REPORTED FEBRUARY 11
PRESS, OAU ADMINISTRATIVE SECGEN ETEKI MBOUMOUA EMPHASIZED TOTAL
LIBERATION OF AFRICA STILL MAIN PREOCCUPATION OF OAU. HE
ADDRESSED ISSUES OF OAU MEETINGS ON SPANISH SAHARA AND DJIBOUTI,
AS WELL AS ZIMBABWE, NAMIBIA, MENACE OF MERCENARIES, AND
AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION. HE REVIEWED HIS CALL FOR CREATION OF
SPECIAL OAU FORCE TO COME TO AID OF MEMBER STATES WHEN ATTACKED
EITHER BY MERCENARIES OR MINORITY AND RACIST REGIMES. END SUMMARY.

1. ON SPANISH SAHARA, ETEKI STATED PROPOSED OAU EMERGENCY SUMMIT
STILL AT STAGE OF CONSULTATIONS TO ENSURE MAXIMUM REPRESENTATION
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 035079

OF AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE. PRESS REPORT STATED EMERGENCY
SUMMIT TO BE HELD ADDIS IN MAY, AND THAT HEADS OF STATE OF
MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA HAVE AGREED TO ATTEND. FRENCH DIPLOMAT
WHO ATTENDED CONFERENCE STATED, HOWEVER, THAT ETEKI DEFINITELY
GAVE DATES AS APRIL 18-20.

2. ON DJIBOUTI, ETEKI NOTED FRENCH DECISION NOT TO HOLD PARIS

ROUNDTABLE MID-FEBRUARY AS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED. IN HIS VIEW, INTENT OF PARIS CONFERENCE HAD BEEN TO OBSTRUCT HOLDING OF SIMILAR OAU ROUNDTABLE, WHICH WAS NOT PLANNED FOR ACCRA UNDER AUSPICES OF LIBERATION COMMITTEE IN MARCH.

3. ON ZIMBABWE, ETEKI STATED ONLY ALTERNATIVE IS TO DEVELOP AND INCREASE ARMED STRUGGLE UNDER UMBRELLA OF PATRIOTIC FRONT. HE STATED ARMED STRUGGLE, NOT KISSINGER OR BRITAIN, HAD GIVEN RISE TO GENEVA CONVENTION. OAU NOT VIEWING PROBLEM IN ZIMBABWE AS PROBLEM OF PERSONALITIES. ETEKI STATED OAU SUPPORTED ARMED STRUGGLE AND IS GIVING ASSISTANCE TO THOSE ACTUALLY DOING FIGHTING (I.E. PATRIOTIC FRONT). HE INDICATED THAT IF THOSE FOLLOWERS OF BISHOP MUZOREWA WHO WISHED TO FIGHT WOULD JOIN RANKS OF ZIPA, "WE ARE PREPARED TO GIVE THEM EVERY ASSISTANCE".

4. NOTE: ETEKI POSITION DIFFERS SOMEWHAT FROM VIEWS EXPRESSED THIS WEEK TO EMBOFF BY OAU ASSISTANT SECGEN PETER ONU. IN ONU'S VIEW, BISHOP MUZOREWA COULD ALSO BECOME PART OF PATRIOTIC FRONT AND THEREBY ELIGIBLE FOR OAU ASSISTANCE IF HE GAVE SIGNAL TO HIS SUPPORTERS TO TAKE UP ARMED STRUGGLE FROM WITHIN ZIMBABWE. EVEN SHOULD THIS HAPPEN, HOWEVER, ALL OAU ASSISTANCE WOULD STILL HAVE TO BE CHANNELED THROUGH PATRIOTIC FRONT BEFORE IT COULD REACH HIM. ONU ALSO WROTE OFF UK AT THIS STAGE AS NO LONGER IMPORTANT IN RESOLVING ZIMBABWE PROBLEM. ACCORDING TO ONU, PRIME MINISTER SMITH WAS NOT CONCERNED AT ALL ABOUT BRITAIN, BUT ONLY ABOUT SOUTH AFRICA. SINCE ONLY U.S. WAS IN POSITION TO EXERT PRESSURE AND INFLUENCE ON SOUTH AFRICA, HE FELT U.S. SHOULD TAKE OVER MAJOR ROLE IN

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 035079

SEEKING SOLUTION, AND THAT PRESIDENT SHOULD SEND SECRETARY VANCE TO AFRICA FOR THAT PURPOSE AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY.

5. ON NAMIBIA, ETEKI REITERATED OAU POSITION THAT SOUTH AFRICA ILLEGALLY OCCUPYING TERRITORY AND THAT WINDHOEK TALKS MASQUERADE WHICH WOULD SOLVE NOTHING, UNTIL SOUTH AFRICA IS WILLING TO HOLD TALKS WITH SWAPO, ONLY LEGITIMATE PARTY ON QUESTION. SWAPO PRESIDENT PREPARED TO TALK WITH SOUTH AFRICA THROUGH UN.

6. ON MERCENARIES, ETEKI STATED THAT OAU VEHEMENTLY CONDEMNED ATTACKS ON ITS MEMBERS BY INTERNATIONAL BANDITRY AND THAT OAU PREPARING CONVENTION ON MERCENARIES. OAU ASSISTANT SECGEN ONU TO DEPART NEXT WEEK FOR BENIN TO ASSESS DAMAGE OF RECENT MERCENARY ATTACK AND INQUIRE AS TO ASSISTANCE REQUIRED FOLLOWING ATTACK. ETEKI STATED HIS CALL FOR SETTING UP INTER-AFRICAN FORCE IS TO HELP MEET CHALLENGES SUCH AS MERCENARY AGGRESSION AGAINST BENIN. ETEKI NOTED MOZAMBIQUE DAILY VICTIM OF AGGRESSION BY RACIST MINORITY REGIMES, THAT ANGOLA HAD ALSO BEEN ATTACKED, AS

WAS THE CASE OF FRONT LINE STATES WHO FACED "DIABOLICAL RACIST WORLD". ETEKI STATED OAU SHOULD NOT ABANDON FRONT LINE STATES NOR REMAIN PASSIVE TO MERCENARY AGGRESSIONS, BUT RATHER ORGANIZE SPECIAL FORCE ABLE TO COME TO ASSISTANCE OF MEMBER STATES. HE MADE IT CLEAR, HOWEVER, HE DID NOT MEAN CREATION OF STANDING ARMY OR AN ARMY WHICH WOULD FIGHT ALONGSIDE LIBERATION FRONTS. IDEA RATHER TO BRING TOGETHER AND HARMONIZE AFRICA'S MILITARY MEANS. ETEKI NOTED ITEA NOT NEW, AND THAT OAU DEFENSE COMMISSION ALREADY EXISTED.

7. ON AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION, ETEKI NOTED IT IN INTERESTS OF BOTH GROUPS AND THAT AFRO-ARAB SUMMIT WOULD FACILITATE LIBERATION STRUGGLES, COMMON OBJECTIVES, AND INSTITUTIONALIZE DYNAMIC AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION.

8. EMBASSY HAS ALSO LEARNED FROM PETER ONU THAT SUDAN HAS NOW FORMALLY RAISED ISSUE TO REMOVAL OF OAU HEADQUARTERS SITE
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PAGE 04 STATE 035079

FROM ADDIS. REQUEST WAS RECEIVED BY OAU SHORTLY AFTER ETEKI PRESS CONFERENCE AND THEREFORE NOT MENTIONED AT TIME.
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UNQUOTE HARTMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE035079
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SMERCURIO:PCS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770235/aaaabfay.tel
Line Count: 144
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cae3a1c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3304883
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OAU SECGEN HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE SUMMARY: IN FEBRUARY 10 PRESS CONFERENCE AS REPORTED FEBRUARY 11 PRESS, OAU ADMINISTRATIVE SECGEN ETEKI MBOUMOUA EM
TAGS: PORG, PDEV, FT, SS, WA, RH, XA, FR, SP, SA, OAU, (MBOUMOUA, ETEKI)
To: OAU COLLECTIVE ADDIS ABABA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cae3a1c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009